GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2997
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
SHORTAGE OF WATER REOSURCES IN RAJASTHAN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to overcome the shortage of water resources in Rajasthan due to famine which constantly hit Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the scarcity of water in the irrigated area is constantly increasing due to drying up of conventional sources, decline in water level of wells, ponds and reservoirs and non supply of water in the canals; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) Water being a State subject, water resources schemes including the schemes to overcome the shortage of water resources are formulated, planned, executed and funded by the concerned State Governments. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to provide central loan assistance. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) amounting to Rs. 466.17 crore to the State Government of Rajasthan has been provided under AIBP upto end of 2001-02 and an amount of Rs. 63.30 crore has been released so far during the year 2002-03.

Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis, under which 174 schemes have been approved in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 150.00 crore.

As a long term measure, National Perspective Plan for water resources development has been formulated which envisages inter-linking of rivers by transferring of water from surplus basins/ areas to water deficit basins/ areas, Under the Himalayan component of the Plan, Sarda- Yamuna-Rajasthan and Rajasthan-Sabarmati link canals are envisaged to provide benefits of irrigation, drinking water, etc. to Rajasthan.

Rajasthan is getting water from Bhakra and Pong dams as per share on the basis of the percentages as decided under various inter-State agreements and meetings of Bhakra Beas Management Board. The entire Central share of assistance of Rs. 171.16 crore has been released to Rajasthan under the Calamity Relief fund during the current financial year. Besides, an assistance of Rs. 11.66 crore has also been provided to Rajasthan under the National Calamity Contingency Fund.